

A final thanks, some parting thoughts

By DAVID BAUM

During the past 17 months at the NEWS I have depended on an increasingly large amount of people to supply me with information on a wide variety of subjects. Much of this information was needed in order for this "carpetbagger from Pittsburgh," as some friends affectionately dubbed me, to understand Carbondale and the surrounding area.

A large amount of this information was also used in the NEWS in order to keep our readers as well informed as possible about events and activities which this editor felt people would be interested in. The purpose of informing our readers was, and remains, to try and get them more involved with their local governments and school board bodies.

The list of those individuals who took a minute or two, sometimes more, of their valuable time to keep me informed and answer a long list of questions is long, but there are

some who deserve to be named and singled out for thanks from this editor for helping to make it easier to supply our readers with correct and useful information. Included in that list are several city employees, clerk Mary Milligan, managing director Pete Judge, Mayor Fred J. Mancuso, Police Chief Francie Dottle, Fire Chief William Burrell Sr., and all the members of City Council, and the Carbondale Area School Board. Thanks also to all the city department heads, employees and others around Carbondale, who always had a minute or two to answer a question, or give some information for print in the NEWS.

Although this city continues to struggle, along with the rest of the country, in these times of economic woes, this past year has produced several encouraging economic developments for Carbondale. Several NEWS editorial columns recently have outlined these positive steps that have begun to turn the tide in the area. It will be a slow process,

but one that will hopefully continue to take place in the Upvalley region throughout the decade.

Those currently involved in efforts to bring new business and investment into this region will have to work harder, though. And those who are not currently involved will have to get off their duffs and pitch in also, or the process may never reach the potential it has.

To watch such events as new industry takes hold in Carbondale, see area high school teams win tournaments and league titles and old buildings such as City Hall and the M&M Bank being restored proves good things are happening here. There are, of course, the bad things which happen also, which seem to give this city a certain reputation for controversy. But for every city or town in America the same can be said. Good and bad things happen everywhere, not just in Carbondale.

There is a saying printed every day on the masthead of the West Virginia University student newspaper, the "Daily Athenaeum," that I had the privilege to work on. It says, "Little good is accomplished

without controversy, and no civic evil is ever defeated without publicity." At a large university like WVU, this saying could be seen coming true often, as various causes labeled 'good for the people' became realities after much controversy and long fights in university and city bodies. Those of us on the newspaper staff took note of the big issues and how they were either adopted, or rejected, by the students and townspeople and we learned to respect those words.

Applying this philosophy to Carbondale has further convinced this newspaperman of those words' validity as 'good' measures such as bringing the MICU II into the Upvalley and putting to rest the idea of tearing down Carbondale City Hall, which would have been a great civic evil taking in mind the importance of the building, were accomplished the past year.

"Little good is accomplished without controversy, and no civic evil is ever defeated without publicity." Those words are quite true, whether they are said in Carbondale, Pennsylvania or Morgantown, West Virginia.